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Hollywood's dirty little war movies

by Ken Burke
from the Dalhousie Gazette

"It was a lie, wasn't it — just like the war."

Col. Trautman in *Rambo*

The Vietnam War is dead, long live the Vietnam War. Ten years after the Americans lost at Saigon, the American Right is still fighting to win the war — the war of history over how the American involvement in Vietnam is perceived.

They know what actually happened often matters less than what people think really happened. If history is rewritten to their satisfaction, the new, ideologically improved version of the "good war" in Indochina will make similar military excursions in Nicaragua, El Salvador and elsewhere much easier to justify.

Leading the way in this battle for Yankee hearts and minds are blockbuster films like *Rambo*, *Uncommon Valour*, and *Missing in Action*, in which the USA kicks ass in a rematch with the "Vee-Cees." In terms of their impact, they may yet be among the most important films of the decade, or a curious cultural footnote to a frightening time gone by. It all depends on who wins the war.

Together with predecessors like *First Blood* and fanatical fellow-travellers like *Red Dawn* (where the Russians, Cubans, and Sandinistas invade the U.S.), these movies are so similar in content and huge in popularity that they belong together in one group. Whether their aim is to turn a profit or to make a genuine political statement is unimportant; by manipulating the current political insecurity in the States, they focus on and whip up an audience's fears into a frenzy. They're agitprop filmmaking — propaganda that works through agitating its audience — at its most effective. And ugly.

Consider the plots of *Uncommon Valour* (1983), *Missing in Action* (1984), and last year's *Rambo*. The story in each is simple: either one man or a small group of men attempts to rescue American soldiers officially listed as "Missing in Action" during the Vietnam War but actually held captive in prison camps. Our heroes do this despite the active interference of status quo American politicians, who seem to be more on the side of the Vietnamese government. Finally,

"dirty little" war, but the politics of war itself — complicated social issues surrounding the players became the subject, not just the context. But by shifting the emphasis from the Vietnam War where America lost, the filmmakers of the '80's finally get their war movie. And the truth gets shafted.

Besides using the convention of old war movies, these souped-up models also play off

reason: these films create ready-made myths for our time.

It's superfluous to bring up the obvious glorification of war and violence in these films, yet the content of each shoots so far past mere militarism that it lapses into a delirium where mythology is the only available comparison that works. These modern-day heroes are the ultimate product of all that's good in America, placed against

highly trained machines in the Vietnam War films. In *Red Dawn*, ordinary high school kids find it in their genes to fight back a Communist onslaught, wiping out entire Soviet convoys with football-game enthusiasm.

With boys like that in every American town today, the fighting forces in the Vietnam films have a lot to live up to — and they do. Former kung-fu star Chuck Norris is adept at taking out entire platoons with no survivors in *Missing in Action*. The army buddies of *Uncommon Valour* may not do it single-handedly, but they have great credentials, too — heredity. Gene Hackman's Colonel Rhodes is the progeny of hundreds of years of American soldiers. "We almost lost the whole family at Gettysburg," he tells his men.

A certain legend named John Rambo (minus the "John" — legends need only one name) tops all others like him. His debut in *First Blood* (1982) made him a victim of police brutality — a cute twist on anti-war protestors. As a result, he turns into the same unstoppable force he was in Vietnam, turned against an American where he has no place.

After retreating to the woods and subsequently outsmarting hundreds of police and national guard, he returns to seek revenge upon the sheriff that did him wrong.

The outsider wronged by society is a fairly sturdy character in legend, especially when he returns for revenge. But *First Blood* looks mild compared to its offspring.



ly, after the personal loss of a friend/friends and the killing of scores of enemy soldiers, the MIA's are rescued and flown back to heroes' welcome. Roll credits.

Aside from the obscenity of feeding the hopes of American MIA families, there are other reasons why these films are worth taking another look at. One is their style — an old-fashioned patriotic appeal dressed up in slick new effects and rock-video editing. While the flash is from the '80's, their minds are still back in WWII.

As in all old-school war films, the supposed object of the fighting (rescuing the MIA's, holding the fort, blowing up the dam, etc.) isn't really the point at all. The real purpose is to WIN; to BEAT the ENEMY and thus prove the SUPERIORITY of your side and your race. Up to now, traditional war filmmakers were stymied about Vietnam; with the exception of John Wayne's gung-ho *The Green Berets* (1968), Vietnam's saga was translated onto film in more questioning terms.

Riding the peace/love movement of the era, filmmakers not only questioned America's

one pretty obvious model — the American hostage crisis in Iran. Just as that nasty episode made America collectively feel "powerless" (so we're told), it also focused the country's hatred on the captors without questioning why the Iranian's loathed American involvement in their country's affairs. By rescuing MIA's from Vietnamese torture camps, these films do double duty; they eradicate that run-down, "powerless" feeling AND avoid that tricky little question of what America was doing there in the first place. As Gene Hackman's character in *Uncommon Valour* said during his big pep talk, "This time, nobody can dispute the rightness of what your doing." No-fault Vietnam. Except their fault of course.

The tremendous public appeal of these films in the States can be chalked up to an urge to purge bad times from the country's collective memory. But their smash business elsewhere in the world shows they touch some universal chords, at least among violent hungry men. *Rambo*'s huge popularity among Shiite militiamen in Beirut proves at least that. The

all that's bad. They are, to put it bluntly, a master race.

The roots of what makes an American master race are laid bare in the growing trend towards the celebration of survivalism in media. Survivalism takes such attributes glorified by the American Right as self-reliance, strength and the willingness to "defend" territory against enemies, and then places

them in extreme circumstances. The ultimate goal for a survivalist is survival at all costs; killing the enemy whenever possible, and keeping the "American Way" intact. The Green Berets of Vietnam are presented as a pure breed of survivalist, possessed with a simple, admirable rule — "When in doubt, kill," according to *Rambo* mentor Col. Trautman. The qualities of an effective survivalist are not limited to the

In *Rambo*, which Sylvester Stallone co-wrote with James G. Cameron (of the *Terminator*), all the cards are on the table. Early on, the film states that *Rambo* is of "Indian-German descent — a helluva combination." Especially if you're trying to brew up a mythic warrior — part survivalist, part Beowulf. His ex-commanding officer Trautman calls him a "pure

"The tremendous public appeal of these films in the States can be chalked up to an urge to purge bad times from the country's collective memory."

continued on page 5

Apologies to you Julla Asimakopulos, for not crediting you brilliantly strained Baryshnikov graphlc. Also to Art Lem for the front page photo.

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PhD's flock to US\$ for glory

CUP — Researchers receive such little respect in Canada that they are often better known in the United States, and can't be blamed for leaving the country for greener labs abroad, says a professor studying research in Canada.

"The research community in this country is very small and spread thin across several disciplines. Many people don't know where there are areas of strength in Canadian research," said Tom Brzustowski, academic vice-president of the University of Waterloo.

Brzustowski sent copies of a survey on Canadian research to 1000 academics, administrators,

and researchers across the country. Although he has only received 230 replies, the results indicate that Canadian researchers have received awards and acclaim for their work abroad, but little recognition in their own country.

The surveys received so far show the leading areas of research in Canada include chemistry, hydrogeology and thermal engineering.

Brzustowski said Canadian researchers do not only leave the country for money. "Some of it is salary, but most of it is resources. If research in Canada is to improve, there should be resources and support for the



full cost of research for a lifetime."

Five year funding requests from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) have also called for increased federal funding for university researchers. However, both plans are still under review by the ministry of state for Science and Technology, and no word has been given on when the status of NSERC and SSHRC funding will be announced.

Tom Siddon, the former minister of state for Science and Technology, was promoted to the fisheries portfolio on Nov. 14 following months of trying to sell the plans to cabinet, which makes the final decision. Siddon's successor Frank Oberle, who doesn't come from a science background, has dodged the funding question in Parliament.

Stephen Beatty, an aide to government house leader Ray Hnatyshyn whose office sets the cabinet agenda, said no date is set for research council funding, but "that's not the sort of information we talk about."

In the House of Commons, Liberal science and technology critic David Berger said the government should move swiftly on funding the proposals. There are "thousands of Canadians whose careers are in danger," he said.

Brzustowski agrees. "If researchers were just funded a little more, it would be better for everyone. That's sort of a cheerleader statement, but I honestly believe it," he said.

Senate committee may sue EUS

by Lucie Robertson

McGill Senate Committee on Women will decide on Wednesday whether it will pursue the Engineering Students' Association (EUS), in court over the misogynist content of its Engineering Songbook, distributed to new Engineering students at orientation.

The committee's concern followed an investigation by the Women's Union to find what action could be taken against the EUS. This investigation was prompted by a terse editorial exposé of the songbook in the Sept. 23 *Daily*.

Members of the Women's Union had previously approached Engineering Dean P.R. Belanger and McGill's Legal Aid, but were unsuccessful. According Karleen Ellement of the Women's Union, "Basically (we got) no help from anyone. Either they said that nothing can be done, or that we were making a mountain out of a mole hill."

Students' Society voted at its last meeting to recommend

against the Senate committee putting pressure on the EUS, but was bitterly divided on the vote. Privately, committee members are still enthusiastic

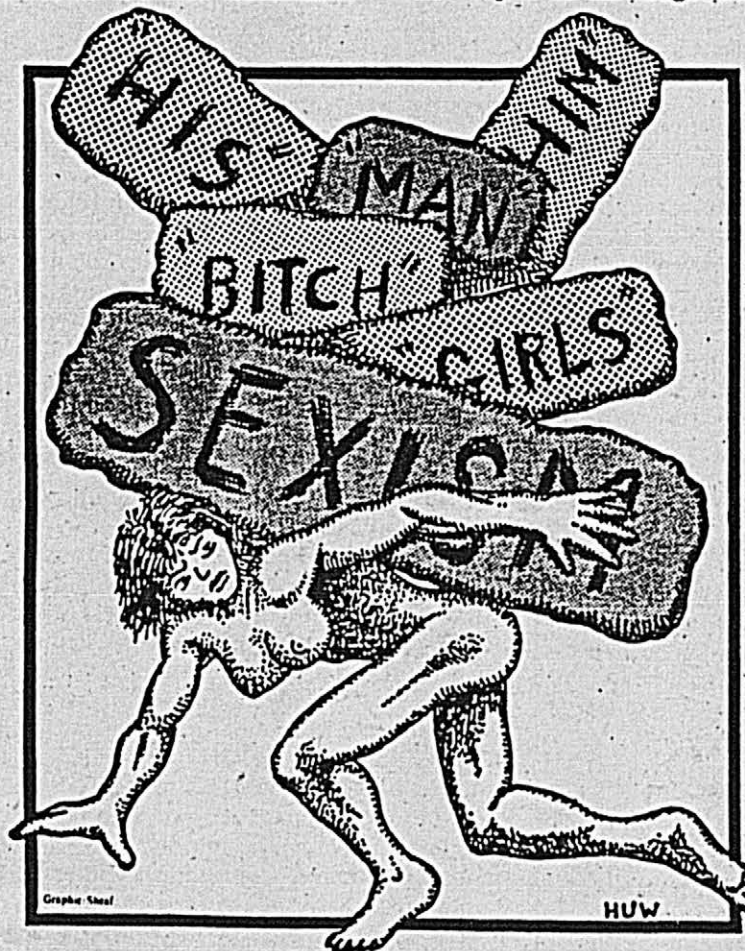
about pursuing the issue.

Despite requests, the Senate committee has not been able to obtain copies of the songbook

from the EUS. The EUS has refused to condemn the songbook, and many of its executive are believed to be directly responsible for both the songbook and the misogynist, racist and homophobic *Plumber's Pot*.

The songbook features a glorification of gang rape and an engineer who "built a prick of steel" to "split (a woman) from ass to tit." The only apology EUS has offered thus far has appeared in the *Plumber's Faucet*, and is only directed to engineers who were offended by the material.

Anonymous letters from engineers which members of the Women's Union have deemed "hysterical" have appeared on the door of the union's office. This harassment has led some union members to question whether such an emotionally charged issue is best dealt with in such an open manner.



Feds up wages

by Susie Petersiel

As of May, 1986, the minimum wage for all persons employed under federal jurisdiction will be raised to \$4.00 per hour.

The employees affected are those who work in the areas such as shipping, banking, air transport, railways, broadcasting and pipelines. According to federal labour officer R.P. Woltman, roughly 4,000 workers will benefit from the increase.

As well, the lower youth minimum wage for those under 18 will be abolished, and the new wage will be universal.

The federal minimum wage has been \$3.50 since May of 1981 — lower than any of the provincial minimum wages. In the provinces and territories, the minimum wage ranges from \$3.65 per hour to \$4.50 per hour. The minimum wage in

Québec is \$4.50.

Labour Minister Bill McKnight announced the increase in order to bring the federal wage up to par with wages elsewhere in Canada. At \$4.00, it will lie in the middle range for minimum wages.

An employee of Labour Canada in Québec, who refused to give his name said, "The raise indicates the government's desire to make wages fairer," although he feels the minimum wage in Québec may be "a little too high."

"There were negotiations with the provinces on the matter of increasing the minimum wage," says Woltman, "but there was very little argument."

He said it was necessary to make sure the wages were neither too low that they would anger workers, or "too high that they would encourage layoffs," according to Woltman.

CAMPUSSPEAKCAMPUSSPE

by Mc Gill students at large

We asked Mc Gill students the following question: "What do you know about Khadafi?" Here are some of the responses:

He's a colonel—the head of Libya—he's a bit weird. Isn't he something of a murderer?

Robert Strazds
U3 Russian

He's an Arabian, the president of Libya in conflict with Reagan.

Lucie Martel
Physical Therapy

He sounds like a raving lunatic. He's committed international terrorism... Are you waiting for some Iranian to come along and say he's a great guy?

Aurum Svicher
U3 Science

It's sounds like he's a nut, but who knows what the media does to distort.

Anne Mac Diarmid
U1 Social Work

He's a terrorist.

Lila Feng
U1 Film & Comm.

Very little. He's considered a

crackpot by most Westerners. All I know is what I've read and their (*The Gazette* and *The Globe and Mail*) general opinion is that he is a crackpot.

Greg Fournier
U3 Economics

I just know about the terrorist stuff he's done — Rome and Vienna.

Helen Pacheco
Arts

Yeah, the madman. He's probably psychotic. He came to power in a coup in 1969. He's a little troublemaker, a pipsqueak... he should be shot.

"Bunky" Brayton
U1 Political Science

The birth of a boy who grows up to think he's God is an everyday event

Melva in B.C.

the McGill Daily

75th year of publication

comment

The man to hate

After the bombings of the airports in Vienna and Rome this past holiday season, the American government began, once again, to look for a way to prove that it wasn't 'wimping out on terrorism.'

Since the bombings were too far away from Cuba to blame Dr. Castro, and since the Soviet Union has disavowed support for the more extreme elements working for the liberation of Palestine, the U.S. has turned on another of its favourite bugbears, Libya.

The commercial media has been falling all over itself to help the White House paint Libya and its leader, Colonel Muammar Khadaffi as a modern satan. Ignoring his disavowal of the attacks on these two airports, the media has portrayed Khadaffi as the evil puppet-master behind the attacks. He is depicted as some perverted mastermind behind disparate movements who are lashing out against the United States and Israel.

Rather than examining what causes extreme elements amongst the Palestinians to resort to terror tactics, the press looks for a scapegoat to blame the violence on. And in Khadaffi, actively anti-imperialist, vocally anti-American and heir to Nasser's legacy of pan-Arabism, Reagan and the media have found the raw material for the scapegoat they are looking for. They have found someone who is completely alien to middle-America; and what isn't understood by middle-America is easily converted from something simply alien into something to fear and loath.

So who is Khadaffi, if not the "weird and repulsive... pariah and barbarian" described in Friday's *New York Times* editorial, the "crazed... fruitcake" libeled in the *Gazette*? Is the *Daily* suggesting he is a saint? Hardly.

He is a ruthlessly ambitious nationalist and pan-Arabist. A popular (internally) dictator of a small nation, he is willing to use force against his opponents with a degree of political acumen which has kept him in power for 16 years. He is a player in international politics who confronts the official, authoritative reign of terror of the superpowers with low-level violence. He is a fascist, and he is intelligent.

We have no love for facism. But we also have no patience with the slander campaigns of Reaganite hypocrites or their puppydog followers. While Reagan prepares to attack Libya, he embraces far more murderous and unpopular dictatorships in Chile, the Philippines, South Korea, El Salvador, Guatemala... But Reagan is not interested in changing Libya's form of government; merely in punishing its people for refusing to accept the third class role he believes third world nations should perform. And this mainly to bolster his domestic image.

The Libyan people, for all their oil reserves, are a poor people. Like many other peoples with a history of combatting imperialism, they have used the traditional weapon of the poor — irregular warfare, or terrorism if your will. Having gone through their own anti-imperialist struggle against the Italians, it is not surprising that they do more than pay lip service to the armed struggle of the Palestinian people against Israel.

Khadaffi's expressions of understanding for 'terrorist' actions is not the same as his condoning the bombings in Vienna and Rome. His willingness to provide arms to the PLO does not mean that his hand guides every action taken in the name of the Palestinians.

He has characterized those responsible for the recent bombings as "completely mad." At the same time he poses the question, "How can they respect the laws of independent states when they have no state themselves?"

Rather than accepting Reagan's paranoid musings about an 'international terrorist conspiracy' organized out of Libya, the time has come to address the question posed by Khadaffi. Rather than wasting time debating the existence of 'terrorist training camps' in Libya or the mythical 'illegal MiGs' in Nicaragua, the media has a responsibility to draw its readers into a discussion on the right of nations and/or peoples to fight against imperialism.

It is hypocritical to denounce the attacks on Vienna and Rome without at the same time denouncing superpowers for their willingness to employ force against nations and peoples who refuse to bow to their whims. The threat of an attack upon unarmed civilians in an airport is no more reprehensible than the threat of bombing an open city.

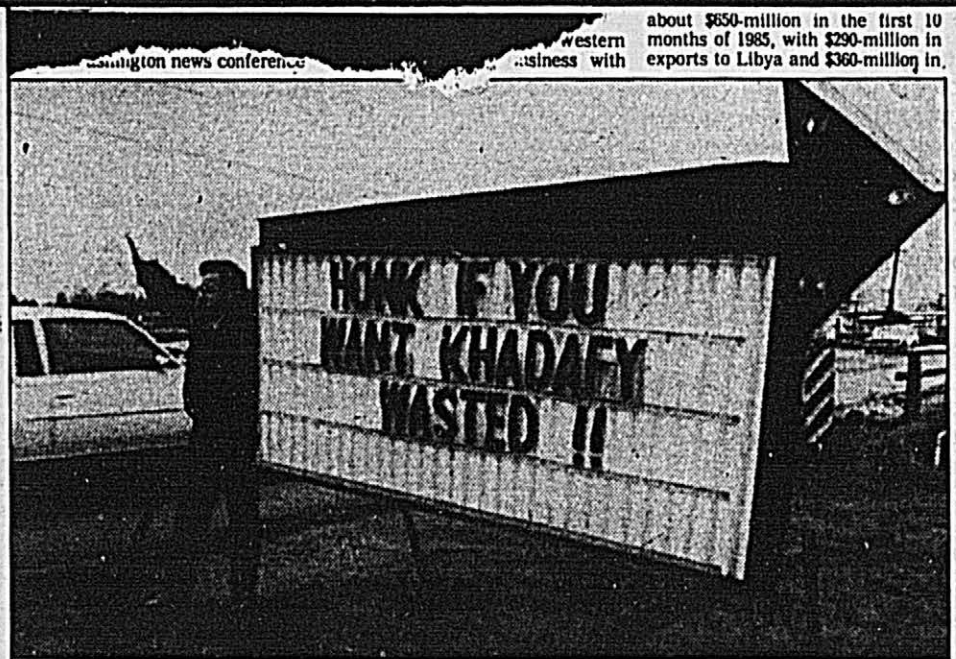
That Reagan's threats against Libya (and his actions against the people of Nicaragua and a host of other countries) do not receive the same condemnation as 'terrorist' attacks in the editorial pages of the western media reveals a bias that is at best misguided; at worst it is a blatant endorsement of the continued subjugation of people on the basis of class and race.

If we are to condemn Khadaffi, let us not do so for some imagined crimes. That the commercial press is bludgeoning us with Reagan's paranoid ramblings should give us pause.

Let us condemn him for the repression of his own people and not for affronting the particular interests of the United States.

Collin Tomlins

Brendan Weston



Kim Plaisance, owner of a used car lot in Pasadena, Tex., acknowledges a passing motorist who agreed with his sign yesterday.

Back of the sign reads 'Honk if you want to bomb Libya.' Mr. Plaisance says he has been getting 300-400 honks a day.

hyde park

Interested in science and ethics? Then you should join McGill Student Pugwash!

The McGill Student Pugwash will begin the new year by holding an Information Night on Wednesday, January 15 in Room 107 of the Student Union Building, starting at 5:30 pm until 9:00 pm. The main activities of the evening will be showings of two films on the topic of nuclear war and welcoming new members to the club. Anyone who is interested in finding out more about our group is welcome to attend. Coffee and doughnuts will be served.

However, this only the beginning. We will have a Potluck Supper (time and place to be announced at Information Night) in honour of our new members who will be able to acquaint themselves with everyone on an informal basis. Then, in late February, the founder of the Student Pugwash movement, Tad Homer-Dixon, will give a lecture entitled, *Disarmament and Artificial Intelligence*.

Our main emphasis this winter, in keeping with our *raison d'être* of the senior International Pugwash, will be on global peace and disarmament. We will plan to organize a Disarmament Awareness Week with lectures, panel discussions, and debates to encourage student participation.

Other lectures are being planned for later on, with topics ranging from the *Philosophy of Science to Appropriate Technologies in the Third World*.

The Pugwash Movement was started by Albert Einstein and Bertrand Russell who, in 1955, urged scientists to assemble themselves in order to unite against the threat of nuclear war and to use their collective knowledge to help solve other world problems. In response to this, Cyrus Eaton sponsored an international conference, held in the small Nova Scotia town of Pugwash, in which scientists could meet and discuss these problems.

Since then, the Pugwash Movement has grown world wide and has fostered the creation of the Student Pugwash Movement, originally started here in Canada in 1979. The Canadian Student Pugwash, a university-based, non-partisan organization, is dedicated to research and public education on issues related to science, public policy, and the responsibilities of scientists in society. Through a wide variety of activities and services, balanced discussion of these important issues is encouraged among scientists, students, and the general public.

Anyone interested in obtaining more information about McGill Student Pugwash can contact Gaétan (392-4510/274-1435) or Dan (277-4000).

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The Daily is a founding member of Canadian University Press (CUP), La Presse Étudiante du Québec (PEQ), and Campus Plus (CUP Media services).

Montréal is home to a unique experiment in mental health care which is challenging the assumptions and practices of the North American medical establishment.

For the most part, the focus of mental health authorities in the West has been on the provision of intensive care to patients experiencing debilitating mental problems. The locus of treatment has been the hospital, and treatment has largely consisted of strong drugs and complete control of patients' environments.

Montréal's *Atelier d'Artisanat* crafts workshop for psychiatric out-patients provides a different approach to mental health problems. It lets them learn to be productive again in an atmosphere removed from the stress and alienation of the modern workplace and the modern world.

Mildred Ryerson, founder and main driving force behind the *Atelier*, believes hospitals provide a necessary service to people who cannot cope or are in serious danger as a result of their illness. But they are not a good long term answer for a person, she argues, because they encourage dependency. Patients can become locked in a vicious cycle of hospitalisation, release and re-hospitalisation.

In contrast, *L'Atelier* is designed to develop independence and self-confidence in patients, enabling them to acquire various skills taught by the *Atelier*. Fabric-weaving, bookbinding, jewelry, stained glass, silk screens are all taught and practised at the *Atelier*.

Rowena Caro is a 26 year-old woman who worked at the *Atelier* for five years, and has now returned to school to finish her degree. "When I first went there I was shaking and I couldn't sit in one place," she remembers. "But Millie (Ryerson) taught me to sit at the loom and I started to rock and sing. Everyone gets relaxed."

According to Ryerson, "Learning and working cooperatively in an environment both relaxed and motivated at their own pace, but with a serious approach to professional quality, has helped a good many people move out of the cycle experienced during years of hospitalisation."

"It has proven to be one of the best ways of getting to know oneself, one's talents and strengths, and to develop them," she said.

Whereas hospitals treat the symptoms of mental illness, the *Atelier* is based on an attempt to correct the cause. For a great many cases, Ryerson contends, the cause lies in the way our society operates, and in our educational system in particular.

According to Ryerson, schools and universities are not set up to develop the student's creativity, and thus often hinder it.

A related problem, she added, is the separation of most people from the creative element in their work. This is due to the ever-increasing presence of machines, and to the lack of choice as to what job one does and how one does it.

As an example, Ryerson cited the employees of an American bank who receive instructions from a computer which also monitors their output. If the computer records that an

employee was behind schedule

on a previous day, it instructs the employee to make the time up by taking a certain number of seconds off each bathroom break.

For patients recovering from mental illness, the ordinary job environment can be cruel and threatening, especially when other workers become aware of the persons history. "In 1982 I worked for four months in a factory," said Rowena, "But I didn't like it. People got on my nerves."

"I'm in control now. It helped me to control my

Since the *Atelier* is built on the belief that social problems such as these (as well as such problems as fear of nuclear war, the health problems related with pollution, poverty, etc.), are largely responsible for causing mental illness, the solution it adopted was to provide people with a more human environment.

From its modest beginnings in 1971, the *Atelier* has expand-

ed to include two workshops and a boutique that sells crafts produced by students and teachers.

The primary workshop, located at the Centre Multi-ethnique, 3553 St. Urbain, has seen approximately 2000 people pass through its doors since 1971 and currently provides part-time instruction for about ninety students. (There is inadequate space and money to provide full time instruction.)

Training is provided free of charge and participants are given a chance to supplement their income by receiving 35 per-

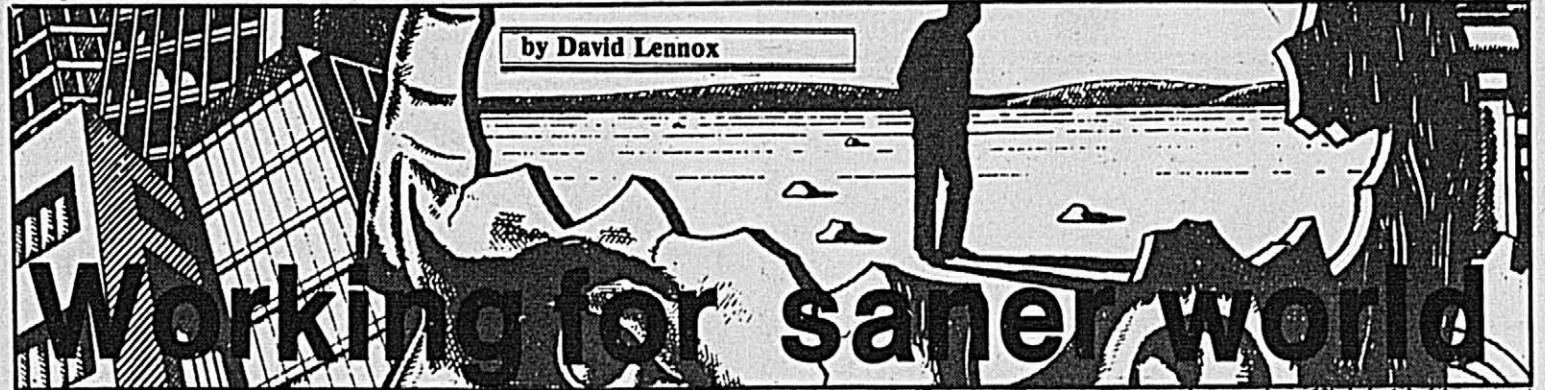
cent of the sale of any of their crafts.

The second workshop was set up in 1983 with a six month grant from the Federal Department of Employment and Immigration, "in order to provide more advanced training for those students who, through their interest and ability could begin to earn their living as craftspeople." Although the studio has not been funded for the past year, the *Atelier*

of the *Atelier*, Ryerson replied that the fact the *Atelier* still exists after fourteen years of chronic underfunding is itself a good indication of success. While some of the participants in the programme have had relapses since leaving, she believes the vast majority of participants have benefitted substantially.

Despite a bleak past in terms of government assistance, Ryerson looks to the beginning of a

by David Lennox



managed to hold on to it and has recently been promised a new grant.

The boutique *Notre Place* was opened a little over two years ago as a place to sell the crafts produced in the workshops and to give students a chance to acquire the experience of running a shop. Located at 159 Duluth East (between St. Laurent and St. Denis), the shop carries a selection of high quality, low cost, handmade items such as clothing, stained glass, hand-bound books, jewellery, etc.

Asked to evaluate the success

change in official thinking over the last two or three years, which she attributes in part to the work of the *Atelier*.

Although the government still provides only half of what the *Atelier* needs to continue, she noted that this is twice as much as they provided until recently and is hopeful that the support will increase in the future.

At the very least, the new wave of 'fiscally responsible' governments might realize that the *Atelier* programme not only helps people, but is significantly less expensive than hospitalisation.

...Hollywood's dirty little wars

continued from page 1

fighting machine with only a desire to win a war somebody else lost." When he takes on the MIA mission with orders not to "engage the enemy," it's a hearty joke for the audience. Its impossible to imagine him in a combat situation — working in a factory or a restaurant aren't suitable occupations for a demigod. In fact, his philosophy is: you gotta become war."

The film also resurrects a political belief very much in line with the world of Ronbo Reagan, and that is the Domino Theory. The ideology of battling communism at any cost has full expression in these films without really bothering to touch on the issue; these men are just out to rescue their buddies, and along the way happen to show that weakened liberals wrought by not letting them "win" the war.

Curiously, these hawkish pro-American intervention films are being made by people with little personal involvement in the Vietnam War. Ted Kotcheff, the director of *First Blood* and *Uncommon Valour*, is a Canadian. David Morrell, the creator of the *Rambo* character, was also born here, as was director of the film of the same name.

Sylvester Stallone, the actor and writer who climaxes *Rambo*

with the tear choked lines — "Hate my country? I'd die for it! I want what every guy who came over here and spilled his guts wants...for our country to love us as much as we love it!" — is the very same Sylvester Stallone that sat out the Vietnam War, expressing his gung-ho patriotism by avoiding the draft during the real war by working as an athletic coach at a Swiss private school. He also spent time as an acting student, and a some-time porn movie actor.

Some American Vietnam veterans are finding Stallone's new found patriotism too much to bear. "He apparently feels he can represent all vets but we don't like that," says Eduardo Cohen of the Veteran's Speakers Alliance, which has organized pickets of California theatres screening the film. "He doesn't know what we went through."

"We, too, were brainwashed with similar propaganda before the Vietnam War," says Cohen. "When we got to Vietnam, we found it wasn't like a John Wayne movie."

So did the people already living there. But they may as well have been Indians in a John Wayne cowboy movie for all the care these movies exhibit for the Vietnamese people. Once again, the country becomes the

backdrop for American suffering, American triumph, and American stories. In each film, there are two types of Vietnamese: noble assistants (one reason the U.S. was over there in the first place) and yellow horde (the other reason). Both types are amply killed in the battle.



Rambo takes this good-race/bad-race split to an almost pornographic pitch. The only "good" Vietnamese *Rambo* sees on his mission is a woman guerrilla fighter who gets blasted in the back not a half-minute after she and *Rambo* soul kiss; her only saving grace seems to be her ability to speak English. The Yellow Horde aren't as culturally privileged, so all other Vietnamese are depicted throughout the film as less than human.

We are shown scenes of young girls "willingly" used for sex to demonstrate the perversity of the bad race. The soldiers

exist as just so much target practice for *Rambo*. Because the troops frantically, nervously screech at each other in a caricature of Vietnamese speech, they're easier to keep depersonalised, easier to laugh at, and more fun for *Rambo* to kill. The only Vietnamese man given any kind of personality is their shifty leader who shoots the "good" woman in the back, and *Rambo* blows him up with an explosive-tipped arrow to the gut.

The final equation goes something like this: take a new-found belief that America never really "lost" the Vietnam War, add faith in these mythic military warriors, an America-first attitude, and a willingness to separate a people into pure good and evil, and the sum equals a perfect climate for a U.S. invasion of Central America. If anything, the analogy works too well.

With the help of films like *Rambo* and *Red Dawn*, the first battles in the perception war are being fought right now, even here in Canada. Reagan's men may be out to rewrite history, but one recent slogan of the political Left may be applicable for the Right's causes as well: "El Salvador is Spanish for Vietnam." To which *Rambo* would just as eagerly rejoin, "Do we get to win this time?"

Staff meeting today at 17h00, bring your AK-47s and dress Khaki

Newsriters meeting today at 3 PM (no exp. needed!)

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Floor Hockey	-Men
Street Hockey	-Men, Women
Ball Hockey	-Men, Women
Volleyball	-Men, Women, Co-Rec
Innertube	
Waterpolo	-Co-Rec

Entries close at 4:30 p.m. Monday, January 13, 1986.

Captain's meeting at 5:15 p.m. Monday, January 13, 1986.

Entry forms available between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. in the intramural office of the Currie Gym, 475 Pine Ave, West, Room G-35. Team and individual entries.

For more information call 392-4730.

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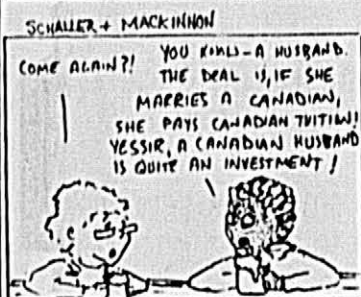
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Ads may be placed through the Daily, Room B03, Student Union Building, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Deadline is 2:00 p.m. two weekdays prior to publication.
McGill students: \$2.50 per day; for 3 consecutive days, \$2.00 per day; more than 3 days, \$1.75 per day. McGill faculty and staff: \$3.50 per day. All others: \$4.00 per day. *Exact change only, please.*
The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damage due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print a classified ad.

341 - APTS., ROOMS, HOUSING
SUBLET Feb-Oct. Sunny 1 1/2, option furnished or unfurnished. Near McGill. Only \$208. Call: 843-5304

Apartment to share. Large 4 1/2 in NDG close to Vendome metro. Approx. \$220/month everything included. 481-4952.

Do you live in Plateau Mont Royal? St. Jacques or downtown? Watch out for my devastatingly effective central heating system to foil the Regie du Logement and make you rich. Contact the mayor's office. Only landlords with an appreciation for gentrification need apply.

Apt. to share: 3 1/2 (your own room) in the CDN area \$121.50 per month. You must be female, non-smoking, without pets, clean, reliable, and willing to share most groceries. 738-3380.

Would you like to sublet or share new studio apt - 731-4129 - till April. Other suggestions available. Call right now or it might be too late.

Looking for an unfurnished studio apartment in the Park Ave./St. Lawrence St. area. Around \$200.00 a month. 933-4201 9:30-8:00, ask for Rachel.

343 - MOVERS

Moving? All local moves done quickly and carefully by student with large closed truck. Fully equipped, reasonable rates. Call Stéphane 288-8005.

350 - JOBS

Office Automation Project: P/T (20 hrs/wk) position open for programmer familiar with PC/MS-DOS systems, data-base structures, Pascal, C, some assembler. Flexible hours. Very creative work environment. Please contact Mr. Twine 932-9048.

Camp Maromac a children's resident sum-

Who are the real barbarians?

To the Daily:

I am sick and tired of reading the slander written about me. My ancestors were kicked out of their homes 2000 years ago. I returned after buying back my home to see it turned to crap by two thousand years of neglect. I rebuilt my home restoring it to its previous grandeur satisfied with living alongside those who neglected it. But my neighbours got jealous and began to break my windows and kill my children. Now that I had fixed up my house, all of a sudden they want it back. Well I know what will become of my house if I give it away. They can build their own house next door if they want cuz they sure ain't getting mine. A state's right to exist has nothing to do with who lived where, when. If that were the case we'd all have to move back to Europe and let the Indians take over. If the Palestinians want a home they'll have to accept the legitimacy and permanency of Israel and negotiate like human beings instead of barbarians. Their barbarism hasn't worked so far and it will never work in the future.

Mr. X

as told to Solomon's Court

Gordon Levine Seth Dallen
U1 Arts U1 Arts
Jason Rosenthal
U1 Arts

Beautiful MUSIC

To the Daily:

I am at a loss to explain your writer's conclusion (McGill's mythical typewriters) that McGill's word processing system is not "a

viable option for most students". Surely the problem is only that not enough students are aware of this service.

In the last three semesters I have used McGill's MUSIC B system to type and edit 10 papers for a total of approximately 200 typewritten pages. Because of the ease and flexibility of MUSIC B most of these papers pass through 3 drafts before submission. I have yet to pay a single cent out of the pocket—the system is provided to McGill students free of charge.

As to the accusation that terminals are often difficult to obtain due to overcrowding, I admit that there is a grain of truth. Once, last semester, I had to wait 10 minutes in the basement room of Burnside for a terminal. Horrible, isn't it.

Perhaps in the future *The Daily* should refocus its journalistic process to promoting (even a few of the) helpful things that McGill does for its underprivileged and undergraduate agents of social change.

David Stewart Rose
U3 Arts

Musical Typewriters

To The Daily:

"McGill's mythical typewriters": I was a little taken aback by Tony Volpon's article on McGill's lack of typewriters, which concluded that MUSIC (McGill University Interactive Computing System) was "...not a viable option for most students." I felt strongly enough about this to write to *The Daily*, however, not having a typewriter of my own to satisfy *The Daily's* letter policy, I was lucky enough to be able to access one of McGill's 142 MUSIC ter-

(Newman Centre) or call anytime 392-5890

Come worship at ST. MARTHA'S-IN-THE-BASEMENT, 3521 University. Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Brunch follows. More information—Chris Ferguson, Presbyterian/United Church chaplain on campus, 392-5890

Willing males & females needed for student haircuts supervised by professionals Wednesdays 6 pm—\$8. Call for appointments, 249-9231, Estelita 2175 Crescent.

Russian/English translator available for translation of non-scientific texts. Also offering tutoring in Russian. Call 621-0878 Irena.

Bible Study/Discussion Group: "Not Just Yes and Amen"—How to Read the Bible with a University Mind. Sponsored by Presbyterian/United Church campus ministry with Rev. Chris Ferguson. Thursdays, 7:30-9:00pm starting January 16 at United Theological College, 3521 University. For more information, 392-5890.

Personalized ultra-chic hair shaping in a most congenial downtown atmosphere. \$9.00 with Libby. 844-3309.

361 - ARTICLES FOR SALE

Down coats reg. \$300 EXXA \$99, ski pants \$19.99; wool gloves \$3.95, all at the one store which is heading the the great store heaven—yes, EXXA is having its final "demolition sale" 1477 Mansfield (near Simpson)

Ninth wonder of the world—EXXA is having its final sale—yup-gone with the wind-over the edge-into the 4th dimension-blown over-bite the dust-being demolished for progress. Last chance to see an institution disappear. 1477 Mansfield.

Moving sale: Futon w/base \$150.00, bureau w/5 drawers \$25.00, B&W RCA t.v. \$80.00, Sanyo walkman cassette FM/AM w/4 AA batteries & recharger \$40.00, call 737-9128 (after 7 p.m.)

McGill jackets: white leather arms, red wool body, crest, "McGill" on the back. Some sizes in stock otherwise any size can be ordered. \$115 286-0903.

372 - LOST & FOUND

FOUND: A set of keys. Please pick them up at Reference Desk in Redpath Undergraduate Library.

To Whoever stole my schoolbag: Please mail the letters inside; If you want to sell it back to me call 849-2678.

374 - PERSONAL

minals (plus another 32 at MacDonald College) to type this letter. Not being familiar with the MUSIC SCRIPT, I picked up a copy of the user's guide at the bookstore. Then I had to ponder for a moment which of the 6 locations on campus I would proceed to find a terminal (sic); would it be Leacock? Burnside? McIntyre? Rutherford? Bronfman? In the end, I decided on McConnell. After about 10 minutes with the manual, I felt confident enough to type this letter. Pretty neat eh?

I am curious as to whether *The Daily* put any thought into the convenience of a word processor as opposed to a typewriter. Or was it just McGill's turn on *The Daily's* "Institution-of-the-week-to-ritualize" list?

Rob Wilson-Smith
U3 Science

Events

Monday January 13

McGill Ploughshares general meeting... from the mundane to the explosive. All welcome. Union 107/108, 16h00.

Department of Linguistics Colloquium on Current Issues in Linguistic Theory presents Lisa Selkirk, U.Mass., speaking on *End rules and phrasal domains in Chiricwini* 16h15, Bront 583.

Freeze Up when you want to participate in class? Got 'seminar presentation jitters'? 'Public Speaking' Anxiety Group forming at McGill Counselling Service. Info: 392-5119.

McGill PC-user's Club meeting. 12h00-14h00, Lea 232. Admission: staff \$1, students \$5.00. Info: Prof. Josef Schmidt, Bront 611, Wednesdays, 8h30-12h00 (5096).

Tuesday January 14

Central America Group Salut! Let's try Tuesday at 18h00 in Union 404.

McGill AIDS Committee meeting 17h00, Union 417 to organize projects for this semester. All welcome.

McGill Photographic Society is holding a giant poster sale in Union 107-108, 11h00-17h00.

At the Yellow Door: Beginning Shiatsu (oriental massage), 10h00-11h30; Peace Activate Prayer Group, 12h00-13h00, (bring your own lunch). 3825 Aylmer, 392-6742.

Drop in Service for conversation and counselling with Rev. Chris Ferguson, Presbyterian/United Church Chaplain, 9h00-11h30, Newman Center, 3484 Peel. Info: 392-5890.

Luc, we can't decipher your last name on your letter; We strongly suggest you lobby your Student's Council representatives to provide access to typewriters for average students like yourself, who don't have access to the front offices IBM Selectrics. Either that, or take a remedial printing course. We'll correct your spelling and grammar—but not your content. Brendan Weston and Colin Tomlins.

Ruth Barton—When you've banished all the world's suffering and are ready to leave the Canadian Red Cross, I'll be waiting. Love, Johnny Canuck.

383 - LESSONS OFFERED

Classical Guitar Lessons offered by highly qualified, experienced teacher. All ages and levels. Jazz and Folk guitar also taught. Ross MacIver 481-4952

Flute and Recorder lessons: cours de flute traversiere et de flute a bec, theory, rhythm, for beginners or advanced call 388-5164

Singing lessons/Leçons de chant (breath control, range, resonance, interpretation). Reasonable rates. Experienced. Near McGill. Call evenings or weekend: 844-9633

Folk, Rock guitar workshop. Union Building—10 weeks beginning January 23. Cost: \$80. 8 students per 90 minute session. All levels, your choice of music. Michael 769-5008, 684-5790

385 - NOTICES

Hooray for Johnny Canuck, a comic book spoof presented by Moose Productions, January 10 through 25 at Players Theatre, 3480 McTavish, 3rd Floor. Discounts with Canuck dollars. 284-0109

Ski Banff—Enjoy great skiing during the Mid-Winter Break in Feb. 15-22. All in-

clusive \$698. Call Stuart 738-5572 Steven 482-3192 between 5-9 pm.

Test anxiety groups now forming at McGill Student Counselling Service. 6 weekly sessions to help you relax and concentrate on exams. Phone 392-5119 now!

Freeze up when you want to participate in class? Got "seminar presentation jitters"? "Public Speaking" Anxiety Group forming at McGill Counselling Service. Phone 392-5119 now!

A new fraternity offering something different. Beta Theta Pi is colonizing here. This is a unique chance for people with a desire to build a quality organization. Individuals not normally interested in fraternities may find this to be a challenging alternative. Information meeting 4-5:30 room 302 Union Building today. Or call Michael Gates 842-6111, rm 1617.

387 - VOLUNTEERS

Cote St Luc's Volunteer Medical Rescue Squad affiliated with Urgences Santé, is now taking applications for new members. Positions open in Communications and Medical Rescue. Training is available. Interested? Contact: Captain Jeffrey Silver; Jon Lack at 485-6950, 8-12 nightly.

Montréal Neurological Hospital. The opening meeting of the McGill Student Volunteer Programme will be held Thursday, January 16, at 16h30 at the MNH

Terror International—a small struggling organisation is seeking to form links amongst armed liberation groups throughout the world. We take our inspiration from the Reagan-Thatcher school of conspiracy theories. We are looking forward to our upcoming summer-school—Jihad '86 (offer void where prohibited)

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- In many courses space is limited. First come, first served.
- There will be absolutely no one admitted to a class once it is full.
- You must register in person with an ID card or gym membership card.
- Classes start the week of January 20, unless otherwise indicated.

[illegible]

Instructional classes will not be held February 17 to February 23 inclusive due to Study Break.
REFUND POLICY: An administrative fee will be charged for withdrawal prior to course starting. No refunds will be given after a course starts. Receipts must be presented to claim refund.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL 392-4737